

# Carbapenem-resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii* (CRAB)

## Patient testing information sheet

Carbapenem-resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii* (CRAB) is a type of bacteria (germ) that is resistant to most medicines, which makes it difficult to treat. CRAB can live on/in human bodies and on environmental surfaces for a long time. This germ can cause serious infections in the lungs, blood, wounds or other body sites. People with this germ can spread it to other people or onto nearby objects, even when they are not sick.

### Why am I being tested for CRAB?

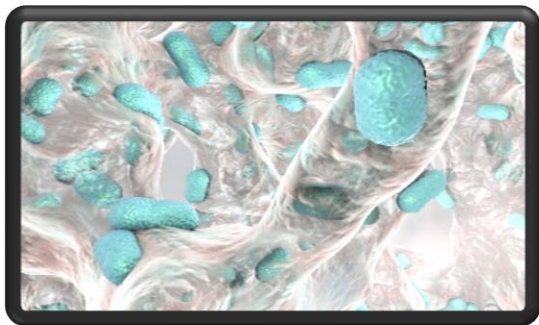
You may have come into contact with this germ in this or another facility. You may be carrying CRAB on your body even if you don't have symptoms. This is called colonization. Fortunately, most people who carry CRAB do not get sick from it and do not need treatment. Testing people in hospitals and nursing homes who may have come into contact with CRAB helps healthcare providers take steps to prevent it from spreading to others.

### Why is CRAB a problem?

- CRAB can cause serious infections
- CRAB is resistant to most medicines, making it difficult to treat
- CRAB can spread easily in hospitals and nursing homes

### What should I expect from testing?

- A nurse will rub a cotton swab on your skin near your armpits and your groin (where your leg joins your body). The test is not painful and should not cause side effects.
- If you have a wound, the nurse will also swab inside your wound while your dressing is being changed. The swab may cause temporary discomfort, but should not cause side effects.
- If you have an artificial breathing tube, such as a tracheostomy, a respiratory therapist can collect mucus for testing during suctioning. Sample collection does not pose any additional risk over routine suctioning. Suctioning can cause brief discomfort or pain. Complications are uncommon, but suctioning can temporarily slow heart rate, decrease oxygen, or injure airway tissue.



Your test results may take a few days. Your health care provider will talk to you about your results and what to do next.

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## Testing consent form

Carbapenem-resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii* (CRAB) is a bacteria (germ) that is resistant to many medications and can spread easily in hospitals and nursing homes. Your health care facility tested individuals who may have come into contact with this germ so they can stop it from spreading to others. Getting tested will benefit you and others in your facility, but you can choose not to be tested. Talk to your nurse or doctor if you have any questions or concerns about testing.

Sample collection will include:

- Skin swab
- Wound culture (if open wound is present)
- Sputum culture (if tracheostomy is present)

The following should be completed by the patient or their authorized representative:

- I have received information on CRAB and test(s) being performed, including any potential risks and had an opportunity to ask questions.
- I understand testing is completely free. Patients will not be charged.
- Testing may be repeated at regular intervals to confirm the germ is not spreading.

Select one:

- I consent to testing
- I do not consent to testing

For myself, [ \_\_\_\_\_ ], OR  
patient name

On behalf of [ \_\_\_\_\_ ] by [ \_\_\_\_\_ ]  
patient name authorized representative

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

OR

The authorized representative (see above) consented to testing by telephone to

[ \_\_\_\_\_ ] on [ \_\_\_\_\_ ].  
person who obtained consent date